since Ist January 1995 as reported in The Times of India dated Ist July, 1996;

(b) how many of them have been filed by Indians and how many by foreigners;

(c) how many of the foreign applications are for food, drug and chemical items; and

(d) whether any product patents were given after the Ist January, 1995 Ordinance amending the patent law and before that ordinance lapsed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The total number of process patent and product patent applications filed with Indian Patent Office during the period from Ist January, 1995 to 15th July, 1996 is as under:

Process		Product	
Indian	Foreign	Indian	Foreign
850	2427	1791	5966

(c) The position is as under:—

(i) Food —53
(ii) Drug —1115
(iii) Chemical items—2320

(d) As per provisions of the Patents Act, 1970, no product patents can be given for these items, as the same are not permitted.

Foreign Investment in Sugar Industry

2171. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) details of direct foreign investment/ investments for collaboration in industry;

(b) what investment has occurred in agricultural sector from foreign countries for collaboration and details of such investments in sugar industry;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign investment in sugar industry is discouraged due to vested interests against the interest of farmers and their production; and

(d) if so, the reasons for low foreign investment in sugar industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) During the period from 1.8.91 to 30.6.96, 4715 proposals for foreign direct investment were approved involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 71139.73 crores in different areas.

The details of such proposal including Agriculture Sector and Sugar Industry *viz.* name of Indian compnay, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved and item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library

(c) and (d) No, Sir, there is no bar on foreign investment in the Sugar Industry within the Policy parameters. The choice of the sectors depends on the commercial judgement of the entrepreneurs.

लौह अयस्क खानों का अन्वेषण

2172. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने चालू वर्ष के दौरान देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में स्थित खानों में लौह अयस्क का अन्वेषण करने हेतु निविदाएं आमंत्रित की हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो राज्य-वार किन-किन पक्षों से निविदाएं प्राप्त हुई हैं; और

(ग) प्रत्येक राज्य में किन-किन पक्षों को उक्त ठेका दिया गया है?

इस्पात मंत्री और खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।